

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Congress of Parents and Teachers****Project Title:**

# Alaska Congress of Parents and Teachers - Program Improvements and Technology Upgrades

**State Funding Requested: \$ 495,000****House District: Statewide (1-40)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Implement and conduct parent involvement programs required by Section 118 of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$495,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Section 118 of No Child Left Behind addresses the ways schools conduct a variety of activities for and with parents including workshops on student attendance, family literacy, volunteering, advocacy and decision making and involvement of the community.

In light of the federal NCLB, state departments of education and school districts must revisit their parental involvement policies to assure that they are in compliance with new federal requirements. The required parental involvement programs, activities and procedures must be planned and implemented with 'meaningful' consultation of parents of participating children.

On June 8, 2001, the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development formally endorsed the Parent Involvement Standards by a unanimous vote. The definitions of these standards were developed and based on over 30 years of research by Dr. Joyce Epstein, Johns Hopkins University. The same definitions are exhibited in the NCLB bill describing parent involvement. The Alaska PTA has had a relationship with Dr. Epstein since the early 1990's. The state of Alaska became a Johns Hopkins Partnership state in 1995.

Beyond the stated requirements for parent involvement in NCLB, Section 118 suggests that schools conduct activities such as:

- Workshops on student attendance, family literacy, and other topics as determined through the parent involvement process
- Organize parent volunteers and others from businesses and organizations located in the community
- Provide staff development on parental involvement.

Section 118 also states that schools and districts may do the following:

- Adopt and implement models for parental involvement
- Involve parents in staff development for educators
- Develop roles for business and community partners.
- Train parent leaders to help other parents become involved.
- Provide transportation and childcare to enable parents to attend school meetings.
- Vary the time of conferences and meetings so all parents may attend.

The Alaska PTA proposes the following 8 Goals to take the lead and implement section 118. These Goals address the needs of all parents in all school districts within the three year plan of work.

Goal I: Train a team of parents from each school district (parents to parents).

Objective 1.1: Develop needs assessment

Complete a needs assessment of parental understanding of NCLB, Alaska's accountability system and the parental role improving their child's academic achievement and parental educational rights.

Strategy 1: Work with ISER to conduct statewide assessment; collect data regarding current parental involvement practices:

- 1) Effective communication tools
- 2) Homework practices
- 3) Parent/Teacher conferences K-12
- 4) Role of decision makers
- 5) Role of volunteers
- 6) Role of community members
- 7) Parent Involvement Policies

Strategy 2: Publish results of research

- 1) Provide web access
- 2) Provide results to other educational organizations
- 3) Provide results to Johns Hopkins University
- 4) Co-ordinate educational summit to disperse information

Strategy 3: Coordinate Summit/training for locally identified parents/teachers/parent liaisons

- 1) Use the findings of the needs assessment to focus resource material for parent training
- 2) Provide web access of resource material
- 3) Frame the work of the body using National Standards for Parent Involvement
- 4) Each district in attendance will develop a one year plan of success addressing one or more district goals of improvement

Objective 1.2: Assess annually and measure results

Strategy 1: Work with ISER for follow up assessment

Goal II: Each team will develop quality indicators for each of the six standards

Objective 2.1: Each community will define what parent involvement is

Strategy 1: Using the National Standards for Parent Involvement & Building Successful Partnerships attendees will define Parent Involvement and quality indicators for Alaskan communities

Strategy 2: Attendees will share plans and strategies to find matching goals and strategies

Strategy 3: Districts will determine partners and build teams for implementation

Goal III: Provide support and materials for teams and districts

Objective 3.1: Teams will have tools readily on hand to plan for success

Strategy 1: Provide copies of the National Standards for Parent Involvement and Building Successful Partnerships for all attendees

Strategy 2: Each trained attendee will have Building Successful Partnership Presenter Materials

Strategy 3: Provide Johns Hopkins Partnership notebook to each team

Strategy 4: Attendees will be able to access additional materials via web site updates, CD ROMs, monthly mailings, List Servs etc.

Strategy 5: Develop chat boards and specific topic discussions via web site

Objective 3.2: Annually update materials and resources

Strategy 1: By collection of good practices the materials will be revised to reflect new techniques that demonstrate successful student achievement

Strategy 2: Launch website that will act as repository for training materials as well as calendar of events, action taken, inform users of updates and host training opportunities

Strategy 3: Develop on line training tutorials for each of the six standards

Goal IV: Adopt Parent Involvement Policies reflecting NCLB & the Parent Involvement Standards

Objective 4.1: By year three all school districts and schools will have updated parent involvement policies in place

Strategy 1: By having a clear knowledge of NCLB, Parent Involvement Standards districts and schools will have examined current practices and identified quality indicators that will be reflected in policy

Goal V: Provide regional training for support and dissemination for schools, parents and public.

Objective 5.1: Increase the number and different types of partnerships will

develop between parents, teachers & administrators

Strategy 1: Trained presenters from Goal Two will meet quarterly via teleconference or when ever possible face to face to share results

Strategy 2: Trained presenters will be available to local communities to provide presentations and knowledge of the parent involvement standards

Strategy 3: Trained presenters will gather feedback from all members of the community

Goal VI: Provide statewide conference for good practices and outcomes

Objective 6.1: Provide an annual conference for collection of good practices

Strategy 1: Hold conference during the annual Alaska PTA Convention

Strategy 2: Highlight districts and good practices during the AKPTA convention

Strategy 3: Place good practices on web site

Goal VII: Provide assistance to college teacher preparation programs

Objective 7.1: Provide MAT programs with local knowledge of NCLB & Parent Involvement good practices

Strategy 1: Trained presenters will be available as a resource for teacher preparation programs

Strategy 2: Have students identify natural partnerships with parents and successful practices

Strategy 3: Evaluate effectiveness' of training by follow up surveys and video tape of classroom

Objective 7.2: Provide opportunity to review quality indicators for the six parent involvement standards

Strategy 1: Access to research and current practices will allow students to build on past practices.

Goal VIII: Meet regularly and involve other organizations that work with parents and families as a mission of their organization (ie. First Alaskans, PARENTS Inc. EED, Success by Six etc).

Objective 8.1: Gather experts together to form an Educational Consortium

Strategy 1: Invite all to summit to capitalize on existing expertise

Strategy 2: Meet quarterly to review good practices

Strategy 3: Celebrate annually

## Project Timeline:

Expenditures will commence in 2008

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Alaska PTA

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



## 2008 Legislative Priorities

**Alaska PTA supports** access to career/technical training and workforce development programs for all Alaska's secondary students to enhance school relevance, meet student needs and improve the graduation rate.

**Alaska PTA strongly supports** the reconstitution and independent active management of the Alaska Public School Land Trust. In addition, Alaska PTA seeks a representative seat to assist in the management of the School Trust Lands and Public School Permanent Fund. Further, Alaska PTA supports legislation that requires that funding generated from the Public School Land Trust directly benefit every Alaskan public school without supplanting traditional education funding.

**Alaska PTA supports** the recommendations of the Alaska Legislative Task force on Education Funding, establishing a more stable, equitable and adequate financial foundation for Alaska's schools.

**Alaska PTA supports** significant capital investment in technology for schools to prepare Alaska's students for the digital future.

**Alaska PTA strongly advocates** that every school district in Alaska adopts and implements a wellness policy that incorporates:

- "Nutrition standards that exceed the federal minimum requirements for school meals and foods available for general consumption."
- Assurance of daily physical activity for every student K-12 of at least 45 minutes.

- The implementation of a healthy curriculum K-12 that emphasizes the physical, mental and emotional benefits of good nutrition and physical activity.
- Parent education on the obesity problem and the importance of adults and children developing life-long habits for good health.
- A school employee wellness component.

**Alaska PTA strongly supports and advocates** for the development and implementation of the parental involvement policies of the No Child Left Behind bill.

These priorities are in no particular order of preference. The Alaska PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer registered 501C3 membership based organization of almost 10,000 members working and advocating on behalf of all Alaska's children.

For Further information contact the Alaska PTA.

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